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CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A communications system for transmitting and/or receiving signals with at least two communication devices via a real time and/or a polled transmission, said communications system comprising:

at least one first gateway responsively communicable with at least a first communications device and at least a second communications device, wherein said at least one first gateway at least one of transmits and receives signals on a real time basis with the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device;

at least one second gateway responsively communicable with the at least one first communications device and at least a third communications device, wherein said at least one second gateway at least one of transmits and receives signals on a polled basis with the at least one first communications device and

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the at least one third communications device, said at least one first gateway and said at least one second gateway are operatively connectable to each other to perform the real time and the polled transmission based upon predetermined criteria, said at least one second gateway comprising:

a scheduler determining which of the at least one first communication devices are active;

a device action manager receiving notification from said scheduler and monitoring which of said at least one first communication devices have requested to download a message from said at least one third communications device;

a download manager receiving notification via said scheduler at which time messages associated with each of the at least one first communications device are to be downloaded;

a message lookup manager determining an identifier associated with each message associated with each of the at least one

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first communications device and selecting those messages that have not been downloaded from the at least one third communications device to the respective first communications device; and a message processor for retrieving messages from the third communications device and transmitting the messages to the respective designated first communications device as determined by a selection system.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined criteria comprise an Internet domain name associated with each of the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the Internet domain name comprises at least one of a name of an organization or a name of an individual combined with a top level domain name.

4. The system according to claim 3 wherein the top level domain names comprise: a) .com; b) .net; c)

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.org; d) .edu; e) .gov; f) .mil; and g) .int.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one first communications device comprises a wireless messaging device, and wherein the predetermined criteria comprises a first identifier associated with at least said at least one first gateway, and said second communications device comprises a wireless messaging device, and wherein the predetermined criteria further comprises a second identifier associated with at least said at least one first gateway, wherein the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device transmit signals to each other via said at least one first gateway.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein said signals comprise at least one of an electronic mail message, an electronic page, and a paging message.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one first communications device is a wireless messaging device having a first identifier associated with said at least one first gateway and

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the at least one third communications device is an e-mail server storing messages for at least one e-mail account, each e-mail account having a second identifier associated therewith, wherein the at least one first communications device and the at least one third communications device transmit signals to each other via said first and second gateways, and wherein the predetermined criteria are respective identifiers associated with each of the at least one first communication device and the at least one third communication device.

8. The system according to claim 7 wherein the at least one third communications device is a post office protocol server.

9. The system according to claim 7 wherein the at least one third communications device is an internet messaging access protocol server.

10. The system according to claim 1, wherein the selection system allows a user to select at least one of the real time and polled transmission, wherein when the user selects the polled transmission, the signals comprise at least one e-

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mail message that is retrieved from a specified e-mail account associated with the at least one third communications device and are transmitted to one of the at least one first communications device.

11. The system according to claim 10 wherein the user selects a name of the specified e-mail account via the selection system.

12. The system according to claim 11 wherein the user specifies a time at which the at least one e-mail message is transmitted from the at least one third communications device to the at least one first communications device.

13. The system according to claim 1 wherein said at least one second gateway further at least one of transmits and receives signals on a real time basis with the at least one first communication device and the at least one second communications device.

14. The system according to claim 13 wherein network load considerations determine whether said at least one first gateway or said at least one

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second gateway is used to transmit signals from the at least one first communications device to the at least one second communications device, wherein when system traffic and/or response time is above a predetermined threshold level said at least one second gateway is used.

15. The system according to claim 1 wherein the signals comprise a facsimile transmitted from the at least one first communications device to the at least one third communications device in real time via said at least one first gateway and said at least one second gateway.

16. The system according to claim 1 wherein said scheduler further determines the time at which each of the at least one first communications device are to receive a message.

17. The system according to claim 1 wherein said scheduler accesses subscriber information from the selection system to determine user specified

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download times.

18. The system according to claim 1 wherein said download manager downloads messages subsequent to receiving an indication from said scheduler and said lookup manager.

19. The system according to claim 1 wherein said message processor converts the message format of the at least one third communications device to a message format of the at least one first communications device.

20. The system according to claim 1 wherein said lookup manager deletes a message record when a corresponding message is transmitted to the at least one first communications device.

21. The system according to claim 1 wherein each of said at least one first gateways have a common domain name associated therewith.

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22. A communications system for transmitting and/or receiving signals with at least two communication devices via a real time and/or a polled transmission, said communications system comprising:

at least one first gateway responsively
communicable with at least a first
communications device;

at least one second gateway that at least one of transmits and receives signals on a polled basis with the at least one first communications device and at least a second communications device, said at least one first gateway and said at least one second gateway are operatively connectable to each other to perform polled transmission between the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device based upon predetermined criteria, said at least one second gateway comprising:

a scheduler determining which of the at least one first communication devices are active;

1971-1972	1973-1974	1975-1976	1977-1978	1979-1980	1981-1982	1983-1984	1985-1986	1987-1988	1989-1990	1991-1992	1993-1994	1995-1996	1997-1998	1999-2000	2001-2002	2003-2004	2005-2006	2007-2008	2009-2010	2011-2012	2013-2014	2015-2016	2017-2018	2019-2020	2021-2022	2023-2024	2025-2026	2027-2028	2029-2030	2031-2032	2033-2034	2035-2036	2037-2038	2039-2040	2041-2042	2043-2044	2045-2046	2047-2048	2049-2050	2051-2052	2053-2054	2055-2056	2057-2058	2059-2060	2061-2062	2063-2064	2065-2066	2067-2068	2069-2070	2071-2072	2073-2074	2075-2076	2077-2078	2079-2080	2081-2082	2083-2084	2085-2086	2087-2088	2089-2090	2091-2092	2093-2094	2095-2096	2097-2098	2099-2100	2101-2102	2103-2104	2105-2106	2107-2108	2109-2110	2111-2112	2113-2114	2115-2116	2117-2118	2119-2120	2121-2122	2123-2124	2125-2126	2127-2128	2129-2130	2131-2132	2133-2134	2135-2136	2137-2138	2139-2140	2141-2142	2143-2144	2145-2146	2147-2148	2149-2150	2151-2152	2153-2154	2155-2156	2157-2158	2159-2160	2161-2162	2163-2164	2165-2166	2167-2168	2169-2170	2171-2172	2173-2174	2175-2176	2177-2178	2179-2180	2181-2182	2183-2184	2185-2186	2187-2188	2189-2190	2191-2192	2193-2194	2195-2196	2197-2198	2199-2200	2201-2202	2203-2204	2205-2206	2207-2208	2209-2210	2211-2212	2213-2214	2215-2216	2217-2218	2219-2220	2221-2222	2223-2224	2225-2226	2227-2228	2229-2230	2231-2232	2233-2234	2235-2236	2237-2238	2239-2240	2241-2242	2243-2244	2245-2246	2247-2248	2249-2250	2251-2252	2253-2254	2255-2256	2257-2258	2259-2260	2261-2262	2263-2264	2265-2266	2267-2268	2269-2270	2271-2272	2273-2274	2275-2276	2277-2278	2279-2280	2281-2282	2283-2284	2285-2286	2287-2288	2289-2290	2291-2292	2293-2294	2295-2296	2297-2298	2299-2300	2301-2302	2303-2304	2305-2306	2307-2308	2309-2310	2311-2312	2313-2314	2315-2316	2317-2318	2319-2320	2321-2322	2323-2324	2325-2326	2327-2328	2329-2330	2331-2332	2333-2334	2335-2336	2337-2338	2339-2340	2341-2342	2343-2344	2345-2346	2347-2348	2349-2350	2351-2352	2353-2354	2355-2356	2357-2358	2359-2360	2361-2362	2363-2364	2365-2366	2367-2368	2369-2370	2371-2372	2373-2374	2375-2376	2377-2378	2379-2380	2381-2382	2383-2384	2385-2386	2387-2388	2389-2390	2391-2392	2393-2394	2395-2396	2397-2398	2399-2400	2401-2402	2403-2404	2405-2406	2407-2408	2409-2410	2411-2412	2413-2414	2415-2416	2417-2418	2419-2420	2421-2422	2423-2424	2425-2426	2427-2428	2429-2430	2431-2432	2433-2434	2435-2436	2437-2438	2439-2440	2441-2442	2443-2444	2445-2446	2447-2448	2449-2450	2451-2452	2453-2454	2455-2456	2457-2458	2459-2460	2461-2462	2463-2464	2465-2466	2467-2468	2469-2470	2471-2472	2473-2474	2475-2476	2477-2478	2479-2480	2481-2482	2483-2484	2485-2486	2487-2488	2489-2490	2491-2492	2493-2494	2495-2496	2497-2498	2499-2500	2501-2502	2503-2504	2505-2506	2507-2508	2509-2510	2511-2512	2513-2514	2515-
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a device action manager receiving notification from said scheduler and monitoring which of said at least one first communication devices have requested to download a message from the at least one second communications device;

a download manager receiving notification via said scheduler at which time messages associated with each of the at least one first communications device are to be downloaded;

a message lookup manager determining an identifier associated with each message associated with each of the at least one first communications device and selecting those messages that have not been downloaded from the at least one second communications device to the respective first communications device; and

a message processor for retrieving messages from the second communications device and transmitting the messages to the respective first communications device as determined by a selection system.

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23. The system according to claim 22, wherein the predetermined criteria comprise an Internet domain name associated with each of the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device.

24. The system according to claim 22, wherein the Internet domain names comprise at least one of a name of an organization or a name of an individual combined with a top level domain name.

25. The system according to claim 24 wherein the top level domain names comprise: a) .com; b) .net; c) .org; d) .edu; e) .gov; f) .mil; and g) .int.

26. The system according to claim 25, wherein said signals comprise at least one of an electronic mail message, an electronic page, and a paging message.

27. The system according to claim 22, wherein the at least one first communications device is a wireless messaging device having a first identifier associated with said at least one first gateway and

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the at least one second communications device is an e-mail server storing messages for at least one e-mail account, each e-mail account having a second identifier associated therewith, wherein the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device transmit signals to each other via said first and second gateways, and wherein the predetermined criteria are respective identifiers associated with each of the at least one first communication device and the at least one second communication device.

28. The system according to claim 27 wherein the at least one second communications device is a post office protocol server.

29. The system according to claim 27 wherein the at least one second communications device is an internet messaging access protocol server.

30. The system according to claim 22, wherein the selection system allows a user to select at least one of: a) a real time transmission between the at least one first communication device and at the least second communication device, and ii) the

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polled transmission, wherein the signals comprise at least one e-mail message that is retrieved from a specified e-mail account associated with the at least one second communications device and are transmitted to one of the at least one first communications device.

31. The system according to claim 30 wherein the user selects a name of the specified e-mail account via the selection system.

32. The system according to claim 31 wherein the user specifies a time at which the at least one e-mail message is transmitted from the at least one second communications device to the at least one first communications device.

33. The system according to claim 22 wherein said scheduler further determines the time at which each of the at least one first communications device are to receive a message.

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34. The system according to claim 22 wherein said scheduler accesses subscriber information from the selection system to determine user specified download times.

35. The system according to claim 22 wherein said download manager downloads messages subsequent to receiving an indication from said scheduler and said lookup manager.

36. The system according to claim 22 wherein said message processor converts the message format of the at least one second communications device to a message format of the at least one first communications device.

37. The system according to claim 22 wherein said lookup manager deletes a message record when a corresponding message is transmitted to the at least one first communications device.

38. The system according to claim 22 wherein each

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of said at least one first gateways have a common domain name associated therewith.

39. A method of transmitting and/or receiving signals with at least two communication devices via a real time and/or a polled transmission, said method comprising the steps of:

determining based upon predetermined criteria

whether the signals are to be transmitted in real time or on a polled basis; and

transmitting, upon determining that the signals

are to be transmitted in real time, the signals from at least a first communications device to at least a second communications device via either a first gateway or a second gateway, and transmitting, upon determining that the signals are to be transmitted on a polled basis, the signals from at least a third communications device to at least the at least one first communications device via the first gateway and the second gateway.

40. The method according to claim 39 wherein the predetermined criteria is one of a) an identifier

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associated with the at least one first communications device and an identifier associated with the at least one second communications device, or b) an identifier associated with the at least one first communications device and an identifier associated with the at least one third communications device.

41. The method according to claim 40, wherein the identifier comprises an Internet domain name comprising at least one of a name of an organization or a name of an individual combined with a top level domain name.

42. The method according to claim 40 wherein the top level domain names comprise: a) .com; b) .net; c) .org; d) .edu; e) .gov; f) .mil; and g) .int.

43. The method according to claim to claim 39 wherein the signals comprise at least on of an electronic mail message, an electronic page, and a paging message.

44. The method according to claim 39 wherein in a

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polled transmission the at least one first communication device is a wireless device and the at least one third communications device is a server.

45. The method according to claim 44 wherein the server is a post office protocol server.

46. The method according to claim 44 wherein the server is an internet messaging access protocol server.

47. A method of transmitting and/or receiving signals with at least two communication devices via a real time and/or a polled transmission, said method comprising the steps of:

determining based upon predetermined criteria

whether the signals are to be transmitted in real time or on a polled basis; and

transmitting, upon determining that the signals are to be transmitted in real time, the signals from at least a first communications device to at least a second communications device via either a first gateway or a second gateway, and transmitting, upon determining that the signals are to be transmitted on a polled basis, the

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signals from at least a third communications device to the at least one first communications device via the first gateway and the second gateway, the second gateway performing the steps of:

determining which of the at least one first communications device is active;

monitoring which of the at least one first communications device has requested to download a message from the at least one third communications device;

monitoring when messages associated with each of the at least one first communications device are to be downloaded;

recognizing an identifier associated with each message associated with each of the at least one first communications device and selecting those messages that have not been downloaded from the at least one third communications device to the at least one first communications device; and retrieving messages not yet downloaded from the at least one third communications device and transmitting at least one

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message to a designated one of the at least one first communications device.

48. The method according to claim 47 wherein the predetermined criteria is one of a) an identifier associated with the at least one first communications device and an identifier associated with the at least one second communications device, or b) an identifier associated with the at least one first communications device and an identifier associated with the at least one third communications device.

49. The method according to claim 48, wherein the identifier comprises an Internet domain name comprising at least one of a name of an organization or a name of an individual combined with a top level domain name.

50. The method according to claim 49 wherein the top level domain names comprise: a) .com; b) .net; c) .org; d) .edu; e) .gov; f) .mil; and g) .int.

51. The method according to claim to claim 49

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wherein the signals comprise at least one of an electronic mail message, an electronic page, and a paging message.

52. The method according to claim 49 wherein in a polled transmission the at least one first communication device is a wireless device and the at least one third communications device is a server.

53. The method according to claim 52 wherein the server is a post office protocol server.

54. The method according to claim 52 wherein the server is an internet messaging access protocol server.

55. The method according to claim 47, wherein the at least one first communications device comprises a wireless messaging device, the second communications device comprises a wireless messaging device, and the predetermined criteria comprise an identifier associated with the at least one first gateway.

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56. The method according to claim 55, wherein said signals comprise at least one of an electronic mail message, an electronic page, and a paging message.

57. The method according to claim 47, wherein the at least one first communications device is a wireless messaging device having a first identifier associated with said at least one first gateway and the at least one third communications device is an e-mail server storing messages for at least one e-mail account, each e-mail account having a second identifier associated therewith, wherein the at least one first communications device and the at least one third communications device transmit signals to each other via said first and second gateways, and wherein the predetermined criteria are respective identifiers associated with each of the at least one first communication device and the at least one third communication device.

58. The method according to claim 57 wherein the at least one third communications device is a post office protocol server.

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59. The method according to claim 57 wherein the at least one third communications device is an internet messaging access protocol server.

60. The method according to claim 47, further comprising the step of selecting at least one of the real time and polled transmission, wherein when a user selects the polled transmission, the signals comprise at least one e-mail message that is retrieved from a specified e-mail account associated with the at least one third communications device and are transmitted to one of the at least one first communications device.

61. The method according to claim 60 wherein the user specifies a time at which the at least one e-mail message is transmitted from the at least one third communications device to the at least one first communications device.

62. The method according to claim 47 wherein said at least one second gateway further at least one of transmits and receives signals on a real time basis with the at least one first communication device and

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the at least one second communications device.

63. The method according to claim 62 wherein network load considerations determine whether said at least one first gateway or said at least one second gateway is used to transmit signals from the at least one first communications device to the at least one second communications device, wherein when system traffic and/or response time is above a predetermined threshold level said at least one second gateway is used.

64. The method according to claim 47 further comprising the step of converting the message format of the at least one third communications device to a message format of the at least one first communications device.

65. The method according to claim 64 further comprising the step of deleting a message record when a corresponding message is transmitted to the at least one first communications device.

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